

canoed through a series of lagoons and caños to the Dique, the name of a miserable hut on the banks of the Magdalena, where, under a shed smothered in a plantation of Plantain, we were destined to wait, eaten up by mosquitoes, for nearly a week. There was not water enough in the river to allow the steamer to come down. At last, to our great relief, we heard her whistle, and ten minutes afterwards we were rushing down the stream on our way to the coast, while wondering passengers speculated as to what could have brought two Englishmen to the slopes of the Andes and the forests of the Magdalena.

[To be continued.]

X.—*Contributions to the Ornithology of Egypt.*

By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.R.G.S., F.G.S., &c.

[Continued from page 54.]

74. *RUTICILLA PHÆNICURA* (L.). Common Redstart.

Plentifully distributed throughout Egypt and Nubia. I shot it in the Delta in the beginning of February; but it is not abundant before the end of March.

75. *RUTICILLA TITHYS* (Scopoli). Black Redstart.

According to Mr. S. S. Allen (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 237) this bird arrives from its winter quarters in the south in April; but Mr. E. C. Taylor (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 61) says that it is "resident in small numbers throughout the winter, frequenting ruined buildings." I never met with this species myself.

76. *ERITHACUS RUBECULA* (L.). Robin.

Plentiful in the Delta.

77. *CYANECULA SUECICA* (L.). Blue-throated Warbler.

I believe that there is only one species of Blue-throated Warbler in Egypt; for although some specimens have a white spot on the throat, and some a rufous one, I have obtained others with this spot half red and half white. It is an extremely abundant bird in some parts of the Delta, and is very generally distributed throughout Egypt and Nubia, wherever the vegetation grows to the height of several feet.

78. *PHILOMELA LUSCINIA* (L.). Nightingale.

Although the Nightingale may occasionally be heard in Egypt, it is far from common. I only once saw a pair, and heard their well-known notes while reposing during the heat of the day in a small wood near Bedreshayn, towards the end of March.

79. *AEDON GALACTODES* (Temm.). Rufous Sedge Warbler.

This bird appears in Egypt towards the end of March, and leaves again in September, during which time it may be frequently met with wherever low thick covert affords it suitable shelter. It is essentially a creeping bird, rarely showing itself in the open, and when disturbed always flying to the nearest shelter. It is very partial to banks where the rich and prickly herbage affords it a safe retreat. In Nubia it is extremely abundant, where it may frequently be seen upon the ground searching for food at the foot of some thick young Date-palm. I have never observed it perch more than a few feet from the ground, being generally seen on it, where it loves to strut with tail erect, basking its plumage in the sun. It builds a thin nest of grass, similar to that of our Black-cap Warbler.

80. *PSEUDOLUSCINIA LUSCINOIDES* (Savi.) Savi's Warbler.

I met with this bird on several occasions between Cairo and Sioot, always in the high corn; when flushed it flies hurriedly, close over the tops of the waving crops for some thirty yards, and then suddenly dips down and is hidden. After being disturbed three or four times, it will creep among the stalks and refuse to rise again, nor will it allow itself to be driven far from where it originally started. I only brought home one specimen, owing to the very great difficulty in obtaining birds. It rises too close to be shot at at once, and then disappears suddenly; when killed is most difficult to find, as it always falls in the thickest corn.

81. *BRADYPTERUS CETTI* (De La Marm.). Cetti's Warbler.

Keyserling and Blasius mention the occurrence of this bird in Egypt; but I have never obtained it, although I believe I have seen it on several occasions.

82. *CALAMODYTA SCHÆNOBÆNUS* (L.). Sedge Warbler.

Not uncommon both in Egypt and Nubia. I have shot it

among sedge in the Delta, in the corn-fields of Upper Egypt, and on the banks of the river in Nubia.

83. *CALAMODYTA MELANOPOGON*, Temm.

This rare Warbler I shot on the 20th of February, in a marsh near Damietta, and I believe I saw a few other specimens, which being difficult to obtain, owing to the thickness of the reeds, I neglected, as I considered the species at the time to be the common Sedge Warbler, which it very much resembles. My notes on this bird, made at the time, run as follows:—"Appears to keep exclusively to thick sedge in very marshy districts; total length 5 inches, beak brownish, legs black, irides brown."

84. *ACROCEPHALUS STENTORIUS*, Ehr.

This large Warbler has been met with in the Delta, frequenting the thick sedge and reeds which surround some of the lakes. It has been described by Mr. S. S. Allen, an admirable figure of it accompanying the description (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 97, pl. i.). Mr. E. C. Taylor (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 63) says that it is abundant in a lake near Damietta early in April. I shot round this very lake for a whole week in the beginning of February, but did not meet with it once; as it does not winter in Egypt, it had probably not arrived.

85. *CISTICOLA SCHÆNICOLA*, Bp. Fan-tail Warbler.

This cheerful little bird remains in Egypt and Nubia throughout the year, where it may be met with in every green field, either watching the intruder from some more elevated plant, or pouring forth its notes as it hovers over the surrounding herbage.

A nest of this bird which I found at Memphis on the 18th of March was purse-shaped, with a small hole to admit the bird near the top; it was built in a clover-field about one foot from the ground, and contained two white eggs freckled with rufous, which were hard set. Dr. von Heuglin gives a full description of the nest and eggs (*Ibis*, 1869, p. 133).

86. *DRYMÆCA GRACILIS*, Rüpp.

I killed my first specimen of this long-tailed Warbler at Dendera, on the 25th of March, having during the previous month obtained two specimens of the next and closely allied species. I met with the present bird most frequently in Nubia;

while the next species was very abundant throughout Egypt, where it remains during the winter. All the specimens which I have seen from Egypt belong to the next species.

87. *DRYMÆCA*, sp.

I cannot bring myself to consider this bird to belong to the same species as the preceding; but Dr. Tristram, to whom I showed my specimen, refers it to *D. gracilis*. It is, however, larger than my specimens of *D. gracilis*, and has a black bill and also very distinct stripes on the breast. In coloration it is altogether darker, and the whole of the shaft-markings are more strongly pronounced. I may add that the present bird is the common *Drymæca* of Egypt, whereas the true *D. gracilis* I only met with higher up the country, and is not nearly so common. I have males of each species in breeding-plumage; so that a proper comparison of the adult birds has been possible. M. Jules Verreaux, who has kindly looked at the birds, is inclined to regard my specimens as belonging to two distinct species, but, like myself, feels unwilling to describe the present bird as new until we have a larger series for comparison.

88. *SYLVIA CINEREA*, Lath.

Sparingly distributed throughout Egypt and Nubia.

89. *SYLVIA CURRUCA* (Gmel.). Lesser Whitethroat.

A very abundant Warbler both in Egypt and Nubia, especially from Dendera to the first Cataract.

90. *SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA*, Marm. Spectacled Warbler.

The Rev. H. B. Tristram tells me that this bird is certainly met with in Egypt, but does not remain there throughout the winter.

91. *CURRUCA RÜPPELLII*, Temm. Rüppell's Warbler.

I have shot this bird in Nubia, and at the first Cataract, and have seen it occasionally in other parts of Egypt. In habits it appears very closely allied to *Curruca melanocephala*. The beautiful roseate hue on the chest of a freshly killed bird soon fades.

92. *CURRUCA MELANOCEPHALA* (Gm.). Black-headed Warbler.

Abundant on the islands of the first Cataract, but distributed more sparingly throughout Egypt and Nubia.

93. *CURRUCA ORPHEA* (Temm.). Orpheus Warbler.

I have seen an Egyptian specimen of this bird in Messrs. Sharpe and Dresser's collection. It is possibly not uncommon.

94. *HYPOLAIS OLIVETORUM* (Strickl.). Olive-tree Warbler.

I believe this species to be common in Egypt. Messrs. Sharpe and Dresser have in their collection a specimen of this bird collected in Egypt.

95. *HYPOLAIS ELAICA* (Lindermeyer). Olivaceous Warbler.

This is the most abundant Warbler in Nubia, and is not unfrequent in Egypt as far north as Dendera, below which place I have rarely met with it as late as the end of April.

96. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE TROCHILUS* (L.). Willow Warbler.

A winter visitant in Egypt and Nubia (Ibis, 1864, p. 237), arriving in September, and leaving in March.

97. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE RUFA*, Lath. Chiff-chaff Warbler.

Only met with in winter in Egypt and Nubia, and, like the last species, extremely abundant throughout the Delta, where alone I have seen it.

98. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE BONELLII*, Vieill. Bonelli's Warbler.

This Warbler is very abundant in the Cypress and Acacia trees of Upper Egypt, where it takes the place of *P. trochilus* and *P. rufa* of the Delta and of *Hypolais elaica* of Nubia.

99. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE SIBILATRIX* (Bechst.). Wood Warbler.

I shot two specimens of this bird in Egypt in April, one near Sakkara and one near Assouan; but it appears to be by no means plentiful.

100. *NECTARINIA METALLICA*, Licht. Yellow-breasted Sunbird.

We first met with this beautiful little bird near Kalabshee, in Nubia, where I found it tolerably plentiful. It was generally seen in pairs, but had not, I think, begun breeding by the 10th of April. It is a lively bird, rarely sitting still for long, now fluttering over a flower, now darting off to some neighbouring Acacia tree, heeding neither the peasant nor his ox as they toil together through the heat of the day. The female, a dull-coloured

but graceful little bird, generally keeps close company with her partner. I have watched them sunning themselves together on some prominent Acacia twig, all the while keeping up an animated conversation in a pleasing little twittering note.

101. *MUSCICAPA GRISEOLA*, L. Spotted Flycatcher.

I only met with this bird once, in May, at Alexandria, probably during its migration.

102. *MUSCICAPA COLLARIS*, Bechst. White-collared Flycatcher.

In 1868, towards the beginning of April, we met with many pairs of this bird between Cairo and Benisouéf; but this year I did not see it once south of Benisouéf up to the 10th of May, from which I infer that it does not come down the Nile in its migration.

103. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*, L. Chimney Swallow.

We shot an immature specimen of this bird in the Delta on the 25th of February, but did not see another until we reached Nubia in the beginning of April, where it appeared entirely to replace *H. riocouri*, which latter bird we did not meet with again on our downward journey until arriving at Girgeh, where the two species were equally abundant in the beginning of May.

104. *HIRUNDO RIOCOURI*, Audouin. Oriental Chimney Swallow.

Very abundant throughout Egypt, especially in the Delta. It appears to keep more exclusively to the neighbourhood of villages than the last species.

It begins breeding about the latter end of February.

105. *COTYLE RIPARIA* (L.). Sand Martin.

This bird arrives in Egypt in great abundance in March; and towards the end of April we daily observed colonies of them breeding in the banks by the river side.

106. *COTYLE OBSOLETA*, Cab.

Extremely abundant wherever there are cliffs, and at the Pyramids, but never met with far from them; consequently they are most plentiful in Upper Egypt and Nubia. They begin building by the middle of February, placing their nests under the

shelter of some overhanging rock, or attaching them to the ceilings in the less-frequented passages of the ruins for which Egypt is famed.

C. rupestris (Scop.) is probably also found in Egypt.

107. CHELIDON URBICA (L.). House Martin.

I found this bird more abundant in Nubia than in Egypt, where I only met with it on three occasions, apparently passing through on its way to Europe.

108. LANIUS LAHTORA, Sykes. Bleached Shrike. Dresser & Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1870, p. 595.

This species inhabits Upper Egypt and Nubia, but is not very plentiful.

109. LANIUS PERSONATUS, Temm. Masked Shrike.

This bird arrives in Egypt towards the end of February. When I reached Dendera on the 25th of last March, it was so plentiful that I could have counted one hundred in a day, generally in pairs. In Nubia it was equally plentiful, pairs flying and chattering together in every clump of trees I passed through.

110. LANIUS AURICULATUS, P. L. S. Müll. Wood-Chat Shrike.

By no means uncommon in Nubia, but is less frequently met with in Egypt.

111. MOTACILLA ALBA, L. White Wagtail.

An extremely abundant bird throughout Egypt in the winter, but less so as the spring advances; and in Nubia, in April, I found it comparatively rare.

112. MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS, Pall. Sombre Wagtail.

This Asiatic species is confined in Egypt to the first Cataract, where, during three days, I saw seven specimens. It is a beautifully marked species, its pure black and white making it very easy to distinguish from both *M. alba* and *M. yarrelli*. Although it has selected this barren and rocky district, near where the Nile dashes over broken granite rocks in a turmoil of waters, it is by no means an unsociable bird, and rarely fails to welcome the stranger by flitting from rock to rock along the shore

by the side of his "dahabeah." Its sociability was the chief cause of its safety; for the land being crowded by natives hauling at the boat prevented the possibility of my shooting it on several occasions. Its food consists chiefly of a small green beetle. It breeds in April. This bird must not be confounded with *M. vidua* of South Africa.

113. *MOTACILLA SULPHUREA*, Bechst. Grey Wagtail.

Mr. E. C. Taylor (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 63) says of this species that he saw it at Cairo in January; and Dr. A. L. Adams (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 22) mentions that it was met with in its usual retreats as far south as Nubia.

114. *BUDYTES FLAVA* (L.). Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail.

This and the next two species are generally considered to be mere varieties of the same birds; and in large series of specimens it is difficult, if not impossible, to say where the one species ends and the other begins. However this may be with birds from other localities, in Egypt and Nubia they appear to keep perfectly distinct. The true *M. flava* of Linnæus I only met with about the middle of April in Nubia, travelling north in large flocks, out of which I killed more than twenty specimens without finding the least variety of plumage, while I had found *M. cinereocapilla* one of the most abundant birds in Egypt in March, paired and apparently breeding there at that time. The true *M. flava* may be most readily distinguished by a distinct white streak, which passes through the eye, and which is absent in the next variety.

115. *BUDYTES FLAVA* (L.), var. *cinereocapilla*, Savi.

This is the most abundant form of Yellow Wagtail in Egypt. It is very Pipit-like in its habits, and is more frequently met with in pairs and flocks in the fields than by the water's edge. It breeds in March.

116. *BUDYTES FLAVA* (L.), var. *melanocephala*, Savi.

We met with this bird frequently in Nubia, about the middle of April, in flocks among the herbage by the river-side. Although we frequently shot specimens out of these flocks, we never came across a grey-headed bird among them. They were evidently migrating north at that season.

117. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS*, Bechst. Tawny Pipit.

This bird is a spring visitant. The first specimen that I saw I killed at El Kab on the 26th of February, when it had probably just arrived. It is very plentifully distributed throughout Egypt and Nubia, usually frequenting the confines of the desert, where its plumage harmonizes with the colour of the sand, rendering it hard to see.

118. *ANTHUS AQUATICUS*, Bechst. Water Pipit.

In looking over a collection of skins on board Mr. Baird's "Dahabeah," I saw a Pipit which I believe to belong to this species, which he had shot near the Pyramids in February.

Rev. H. B. Tristram (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 289) calls this a well-known Egyptian species.

119. *ANTHUS CERVINUS*, Pall. Red-throated Pipit.

One of the most abundant birds throughout Egypt and Nubia. Its numbers are somewhat decreased by April; but I believe it to remain on the Nile through the year.

This species in Egypt appears to take the place of *A. pratensis*, which latter bird neither Mr. E. C. Taylor nor myself ever met with.

120. *ANTHUS ARBOREUS*, Bechst. Tree Pipit.

Arrives about March, and is then tolerably plentiful throughout Egypt and Nubia.

121. *CERTHILAUDA DESERTORUM* (Stanley). Bifasciated Lark.

I only twice met with this Lark in Egypt—once near Sak-kara, and once on the desert, near Kom Ombos. Yet Dr. A. L. Adams (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 24) says that it is not uncommon in small flocks along the edge of the desert from the Pyramids to Nubia. In the desert, near Lake Fyoom, it is tolerably abundant.

122. *ALAUDA CRISTATA*, L. Crested Lark.

This I consider the most abundant bird in Egypt. In Nubia the specimens appeared rather paler than those in Egypt. I insert this remark, which I made at the time in my notes, as I also observed that the Desert Larks were darker in Nubia than in

Egypt, not then being aware that they had already been separated into two different species.

123. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA*, Leisler. Short-toed Lark.

Arrives in Egypt in March; and as I did not meet with it later than the middle of April (always in flocks) I think it probably does not remain to breed.

124. *CALANDRELLA REBOUDIA*, Tristr. Desert short-toed Lark.

I never met with this bird to my knowledge. It is a small desert form of the last species, which remains in Egypt throughout the year. Mr. E. C. Taylor killed some specimens in the month of January, near Cairo, out of a small flock that he found in the desert.

125. *AMMOMANES ISABELLINA* (Temm.). Desert Lark.

Resident throughout the year in Egypt, and very abundant, keeping exclusively to the desert or its confines, where it may be frequently seen, generally in pairs, running along the sand, with which its colouring so well conforms, or perched upon a stone by the side of a rock. No spot either on the plain or on the mountain seems too drear and desolate for its abode. In Nubia it is almost entirely replaced by the next species, a very closely allied form.

126. *AMMOMANES FRATERCULUS*, Tristr. Tristram's Lark.

This is one of the most abundant birds in Nubia and near Assouan.

First described by the Rev. H. B. Tristram (P. Z. S. 1864, p. 434).

127. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*, L. Ortolan Bunting.

During my first visit to Egypt in 1868, I shot this bird on several occasions between Cairo and Benisouéf in the early part of April. It only arrives in Egypt in March, and, I believe, is never very plentiful.

128. *EMBERIZA CÆSIA*, Cretzsch. Cretzschmar's Bunting.

The Rev. A. C. Smith ('Attractions of the Nile,' vol. ii. p. 232) mentions having seen this bird at Alexandria. I shot it

once near Cairo in the beginning of April, and saw, I believe, a second specimen.

129. *LINOTA CANNABINA* (L.). Linnet.

Very plentiful in the Delta in winter. I have never observed it above Cairo, and believe that it does not remain to breed in the country.

130. *ERYTHROSPIZA GITHAGINEA*, Licht. Desert Bullfinch.

This pretty little bird, rendered so conspicuous by its bright red bill, is very plentiful in Upper Egypt and Nubia, where it may generally be met with in pairs along the confines of the desert, or in flocks. It invades the cultivated land for its food, which consists entirely of small seeds. Its flight very closely resembles that of the Linnet.

131. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (L.). Common Sparrow.

Extremely abundant throughout Egypt and Nubia.

132. *PASSER SALICARIUS*, Vieill. Spanish Sparrow.

All those who have written on the ornithology of Egypt, appear to agree that this is an extremely abundant species. Mr. E. C. Taylor (*Ibis* 1867, p. 65) says that it is more abundant even than *P. domesticus*. I, however, only recognized it in Egypt on one occasion, when I shot three out of a flock at Golosaneh on the 1st of February. I was constantly on the look-out for this species during my last visit, but always unsuccessfully. On both occasions I have not commenced collecting birds before February; and at that season this species may be leaving the country, for it certainly does not breed abundantly in Egypt. Dr. A. L. Adams says (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 23) that in November and December, during the ripening of the "dhurra," Spanish sparrows assemble in enormous numbers and do great damage to the crops.

133. *CORVUS UMBRINUS*, Hedenborg. Brown-necked Raven.

This small Raven is very plentiful throughout Egypt and Nubia, wherever the rocks afford it a suitable home.

It builds both in rocks and trees, in the latter instance generally selecting the crown of some lofty Date-palm.

134. *CORVUS AFFINIS*, Rüpp.

I have seen a specimen of this bird in Mr. E. C. Taylor's collection, which was obtained in Upper Egypt.

It is a true Raven ; its bill is short, conical, and thick. The feathers on the throat are lanceolate, and a rich violet reflection pervades the whole of its plumage. Length 19 inches ; the wing exceeds the tail by 1 inch. The Rev. H. B. Tristram gives an interesting account of this species (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 71). The Rev. A. C. Smith, in his 'Attractions of the Nile,' vol. ii. p. 276, mentions seeing a pair of small Crows of jet-black plumage at El Kab, which no doubt belonged to this species.

135. *CORVUS CORNIX*, L. Hooded Crow.

Extremely abundant in Egypt, but less so in Nubia. It breeds in the country towards the end of February.

136. *CORVUS FRUGILEGUS*, L. Rook.

I first met with this bird at Memphis in 1868, and subsequently found it in great abundance in the Delta ; but it does not remain to breed in the country.

137. *STURNUS VULGARIS*, L. Starling.

I found this bird plentiful throughout the Delta in the month of February, but never saw it elsewhere, although it is to be found in Middle and, possibly, in Upper Egypt.

138. *COLUMBA SCHIMPERI*, Bp. Schimper's Pigeon.

This is the species to which all the Egyptian tame pigeons belong. It differs from *C. livia* in the absence of the white rump, so characteristic of the latter species. It may be seen in great abundance in its purely wild state breeding in the rocks of Aboofáyda, and at Gebel el Thayr.

139. *TURTUR AURITUS*, G. R. Gray. Common Turtle-dove.

I did not meet with this species until the 20th of April, at Edfoo. It had evidently only just arrived ; for I saw it daily afterwards in greater abundance than either of the other two species of Turtle-doves. The bird which has generally been mistaken for *T. auritus*, from Egypt, is *T. sharpii*, which I had the pleasure of naming after my friend Mr. Sharpe, Librarian of the Zoological Society of London.

140. *TURTUS SHARPII*, G. E. Shelley.

This bird arrives in the beginning of March and is extremely abundant throughout Egypt and Nubia, where it may be found breeding in great numbers towards the latter end of that month, some three weeks before *T. auritus* arrives in the same country. It has long been confounded with our common Turtle-dove, owing to the similarity of its markings, but may at once be distinguished from that bird by the absence of any blue shading on the head and back, and from other characters which I have given in detail (*Ibis*, 1870, p. 447). The egg is intermediate in size between those of *T. auritus* and of *T. ægyptiacus*, and, from the one specimen I brought home, appears not to be of such a pure white colour as those of the other two Doves.

141. *TURTUR ÆGYPTIACUS*, Lath. Egyptian Turtle-dove.

Very abundant throughout Egypt and Nubia, and is the only Turtle-dove which remains there the whole winter. It builds both in trees and on the ground by the side of banks.

142. *COTURNIX COMMUNIS*, Bonnaterre. Quail.

Arrives in Egypt in great abundance towards the beginning of March, and leaves again in November. The greater number of birds met with in Egypt are probably only passing through the country.

143. *AMMOPERDIX HEYI*, Temm. Hey's Sand-partridge.

Rare in Egypt. Mr. E. C. Taylor obtained a specimen at Assouan (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 67). It frequents rocky districts, where it prefers running and hiding among the stones to taking wing. The Rev. H. B. Tristram gives an account of its habits (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 214).

144. *PTEROCLES EXUSTUS*, Temm. Singed Sand-grouse.

I met with this bird in great abundance at Golosaneh, but nowhere else during my last tour. In 1868 I found it very plentiful wherever a certain coarse grass grew, the seeds of which form its chief food, especially at Karnook and near Kom Ombos.

It is generally to be met with in small packs, and is rather shy. It appears to utter its loud shrill note only while on the wing.

It breeds in April, in small holes, which it forms in the sand, and lines scantily with dried grass.

145. *PTEROCLES SENEGALENSIS*, Latham. Senegal Sand-grouse.

This Sand-grouse, which differs from the last chiefly in its paler colour and yellow throat, is also far less abundant; and we only shot three specimens while in Egypt.

146. *PTEROCLES CORONATUS*, Licht. Crowned Sand-grouse.

This is undoubtedly a rare bird in Egypt; for neither Mr. E. C. Taylor nor myself ever once met with it; but Dr. A. L. Adams mentions having shot four of these birds out of a flock at the second Cataract (Ibis, 1864, p. 27), and Mr. S. S. Allen also shot a pair at El Kab (Ibis, 1864, p. 240). This species is well figured in Gould's 'Birds of Asia.'

147. *GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA* (L.).

This Pratincole arrives in Egypt in great numbers about the middle of April. We first met with it at the first Cataract, near Phile, on the 15th of that month, and afterwards saw it in great abundance as we descended the Nile, sometimes on the bare fields, but more frequently by the side of some pool, or on the numerous sand banks; at times flying rapidly through the air in flocks like Plovers, or else floating with outspread wings, or, again, playing over the water after the manner of Terns. When I first saw a single specimen of this bird rise from a small pool, I should have taken it for a Green Sandpiper, which it very closely resembles in the colouring of its back and flight, had it not been for the greater length of its pinions, which gives it a more Tern-like appearance. Locusts seem to form their chief food when I met with them. Probably the greater number of these flocks do not remain in the country to breed, but pass on into Europe, returning again in October and November on their way south.

148. *CURSORIUS GALLICUS*, Gm. Cream-coloured Courser.

I met with a flock of four of these birds on the 4th of February, opposite Aboofáyda. Although shy, they preferred

running to flying, never remaining long on the wing; and after an hour's hot pursuit I obtained three of them.

149. OTIS HOUBARA, Gm. Ruffed Bustard.

This bird, which is abundant in most parts of North Africa, and extends into Arabia, must naturally be found in Egypt. There is a stuffed specimen in the British Museum labelled "Egypt." Mr. Josceline Amherst tells me that he heard it was not uncommon in the desert near El Fyoom.

150. ŒDICNEMUS CREPITANS, Temm. Thick-knee.

Tolerably abundant in pairs and small flocks throughout Egypt and Nubia. I often shot them, in hopes of obtaining *Œ. senegalensis*, a very nearly allied form which I had expected to find in Egypt.

151. HOPLOPTERUS SPINOSUS (L.). Spur-winged Plover.

One of the most abundant birds in Egypt, where it may be seen on every sand bank, either motionless, with head depressed and shoulders up, trying to elude observation, or else standing erect and constantly moving its body with a little spasmodic jerk. Its cry is loud and varied, and constantly to be heard. It commences breeding in March, when I have found as many as thirty nests close together towards the point of a sand bank. The birds scrape out neat circular shallow holes in the sand, which they roughly line with short pieces of dried reed, just sufficient to prevent the eggs from touching the ground. In Nubia this bird was comparatively rare.

152. VANELLUS CRISTATUS, Meyer. Lapwing.

By no means uncommon; but I have never met with it later than March in Upper Egypt, and I think that it probably does not breed further south than the Delta.

153. CHÆTUSIA GREGARIA (Pallas). Social Plover.

Rare in Egypt. I only met with it twice, on the 9th and 10th of March, between Girgeh and Sioot. We killed one of a pair that we saw the first day, and one out of a flock of eight on the second occasion.

154. CHÆTUSIA LEUCURA (Licht.). White-tailed Plover.

This Plover was formerly considered one of the greatest

ornithological prizes to be obtained in Egypt, and the lake near Erment, where it is yearly to be met with, was given as its only known locality.

The Rev. A. C. Smith, in his book entitled 'The Attractions of the Nile,' mentions having shot it in Nubia. Latterly it has been found to be plentiful in the Delta, where I met with it myself about the middle of February, near Damietta, in pairs and flocks, and have no doubt that it breeds there. It was by no means shy, and showed a predilection for certain spots, to which, when driven away, it would generally soon return.

A specimen of this bird, killed at Malta, has been figured and described by Mr. C. A. Wright (*Ibis*, 1865, p. 459).

155. *PLUVIANUS ÆGYPTIUS* (L.). Black-headed Plover.

This species is most abundant in Upper Egypt, from Sioot to Thebes, almost invariably in pairs; yet I doubt if it breeds before May. Birds of this species are never met with far from the river-bank, and when on the wing invariably fly close over the surface of the water, frequently uttering their cry during flight. They look extremely handsome as they thus skim along the stream with outspread pinions, and display their distinctly marked plumage to the greatest advantage.

156. *CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS*, L. Golden Plover.

Abundant at times in some parts of the Delta. Towards the end of February we killed several near Damietta.

157. *ÆGIALITES GEOFFROYI* (Wagler). Large Sand-Plover.

Obtained by Mr. Cavendish Taylor in the market at Alexandria.

A bird of this description would certainly not be brought from far to the Alexandrian market, so that this specimen may safely be regarded as Egyptian, having probably been shot in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. I know of no other specimen having been obtained in Egypt.

It has been well figured and described by Mr. J. E. Harting (*Ibis*, 1870, p. 378).

158. *ÆGIALITES CANTIANUS* (Lath.). Kentish Plover.

Very abundant throughout Egypt, and also to be met with in Nubia.

159. *ÆGIALITES MINOR* (Meyer). Little Ringed Plover.
Abundant throughout Egypt and Nubia.

160. *ÆGIALITES PECUARIUS* (Temm.).

In 1868 I met with this species in great abundance, especially at Golosaneh and Girgeh. On my second visit, although always on the look-out for it, I only shot one at Golosaneh, on the 8th of May. I generally met with it in similar localities to those frequented by *Æ. cantianus* and *Æ. minor*. On the wing it is often hard to distinguish from the latter.

Temminck has probably figured this bird under the name *C. pecuarius*, Pl. Col. 183, from a specimen which he mentions as having been procured at the Cape of Good Hope; but the figure is by no means good.

[To be continued.]

XI.—*Additional Notes on Birds of the Territory of the Trans-Vaal Republic.* By THOMAS AYRES. (Communicated by JOHN HENRY GURNEY.)

[THE following notes by Mr. Ayres refer to various species of birds observed by him in the Trans-Vaal territory, which were not included in his first list, published in 'The Ibis' for 1869, p. 286, and which, except where the contrary is mentioned, have been identified by the examination of specimens sent by Mr. Ayres to this country.]

At the end of this series of notes, some additional remarks are added relating to a few of the species included in Mr. Ayres's previous paper.

Those of the species referred to by Mr. Ayres which are included by Mr. Layard in his work on the Birds of South Africa are distinguished by the addition of the number appended to them in Mr. Layard's book, preceded by the letter L.—J. H. G.]

67. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS* (Linn.). Marsh Harrier.

The present bird (a male) was shot by myself in December, 1869, whilst it was hunting in a marsh after the manner of *C. ranivorus*; its flight was slow and heavy. I have never seen